

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN EDITORIAL STRONGLY ATTACKS PIERRE GEMAYEL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LEAD EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH JUNE 22 APPEARS TO CALL FOR
THE DOWNFALL OF PIERRE GEMAYEL WITHOUT EVER MENTIONING HIS
NAME. ENTITLED: "THE LEGALITY OF CONFRONTING
THE PLOT," THE EDITORIAL SAYS THAT "THE FEIGNED TEARS OF
SOME POLITICAL FORCES IN LEBANON OVER THE 'LOST' AUTHORITY
OF THE STATE CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS THE TEARS OF WOLVES OVER
THE FATE OF SHEEP WHEN THE SHEEP ARE SURROUNDED BY THESE
SAME WOLVES. THIS FEIGNED WEEPING WHOSE REVERBERATIONS ARE
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TODAY GROWING STRONGER IN THE STATEMENTS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THESE 'FORCES' COMES AFTER CONTINUED ACTS OF
BARBARISM, THE LAST OF WHICH WAS THE IHDIN OPERATION
WHICH WAS PLANNED AND EXECUTED ON BEHALF OF AND WITH
THE DECISION OF THOSE WHO TODAY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE
NECESSITY OF THE (CENTRAL) AUTHORITY DISCHARGING ITS
DUTIES...WHILE THEY KNOW BETTER THAN MOST THAT THEIR

PRESSURE AND DISGRACEFUL BEHAVIOR HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL BARRIERS WHICH CONTINUES TO BLOCK THE WAY OF THE LEBANESE AUTHORITY."

COMMENT: WHILE BOTH FRANGIEH SUPPORTERS AND PIERRE GEMAYEL HAVE RECENTLY ISSUED STATEMENTS AND COUNTER-STATEMENTS ON THEIR DESIRE TO HAVE THE CENTRAL LEBANESE GOVERNMENT RESTORE SECURITY TO THE COUNTRY AND HAVE ACCUSED ONE ANOTHER OF BAD FAITH, THE REFERENCE TO THE IHDIN OPERATION WOULD INDICATE THAT THE EDITORIAL IS DIRECTED AGAINST GEMAYEL.)

2. THE EDITORIAL THEN STATES THAT THESE FORCES HAVE MADE THE LEBANESE PEOPLE PAY A HEAVY PRICE BY THEIR "DEVIATIONS AND ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE A SHADOW AUTHORITY UPON THE LEGITIMATE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT." IT ACCUSES THEM OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE COUNTRY'S "ABNORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES" BY ACTING UNILATERALLY IN CERTAIN LEBANESE REGIONS AND CLAIMS THAT THE PATIENCE OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY BEEN MET BY FURTHER "OBSTRUCTIONISM AND DEVIATION" INTENDED TO FORCE THE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY "TO FOLLOW A COURSE OF PACIFICATION AND APPEASEMENT."

3. EDITORIAL CHARGES THAT "THE LATEST IHDIN INCIDENTS CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM ISRAELI SCHEMES OPERATING IN SOUTH LEBANON. THESE FORCES HAVE THUS REVEALED THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TWO-FACED GAME: ONE FACE OF THE KILLER WHO IS RAISING HIS EAPON IN THE FACE OF ALL NATIONAL IDEALS...AND THE OTHER THE FACE OF THE ONE WHO FALSELY WEEPS FOR THE (LOST) STATUS AND PRESTIGE OF THE (LEBANESE) AUTHORITY."

4. OMINOUSLY, THE EDITORIAL WARNS THAT: "EVERYONE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS GAME AND TO ITS PLAYERS; WHETHER PARTICIPANTS, PLANNERS, OR EXECUTORS. IT IS TIME TO BEGIN DIRECT TREATMENT (OF THIS SITUATION) BY KILLING THE 'WOLF' WHICH IS TRYING TO BE A 'FOX' ALSO..."

END UNCLASSIFIED BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. COMMENT: THE EDITORIAL DID NOT GET FRONT PAGE TREATMENT AS IT WOULD HAVE IF IT WAS MEANT TO BE EMPHASIZED; NOR DID IT MAKE IT CLEAR WHETHER THE PHRASE "KILLING THE WOLF" IS MEANT TO REFER TO INDIVIDUALS OR JUST TO THE POLICIES INIMICAL TO REASSERTION OF LEBANESE LEGAL AUTHORITY. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO SERVE AS A WARNING TO THE "GEMAYELS" AND OTHER CHRISTIAN HARDLINERS THAT THEIR POLICIES MAY HAVE

GONE BEYOND THE PALE.
PELLETREAU

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